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ABSTRACT

The history of Asian Americans is filled with abuses against them from virtually every segment of society and from every level of government. Fortunately, Asian Americans, as well as members of other minority groups, are able to turn to a number of state and federal statutes aimed at protecting their civil rights. Government, legal, and community organizations help provide a range of services for those minorities who have been victimized. This guide is designed to help Asian Americans in Massachusetts identify some of their basic rights. It outlines steps to take when these rights may be in jeopardy, and it identifies resources for information, support and action. The resources are grouped in to the key areas of: (1) hate crimes; (2) employment; (3) housing; (4) education; (5) domestic violence; and (6) public accommodations. Each section begins with general information about the issue and a discussion of what to do if one has been victimized in the area in question. Government agencies, legal resources, and community organizations that provide help are then listed. (SLD)

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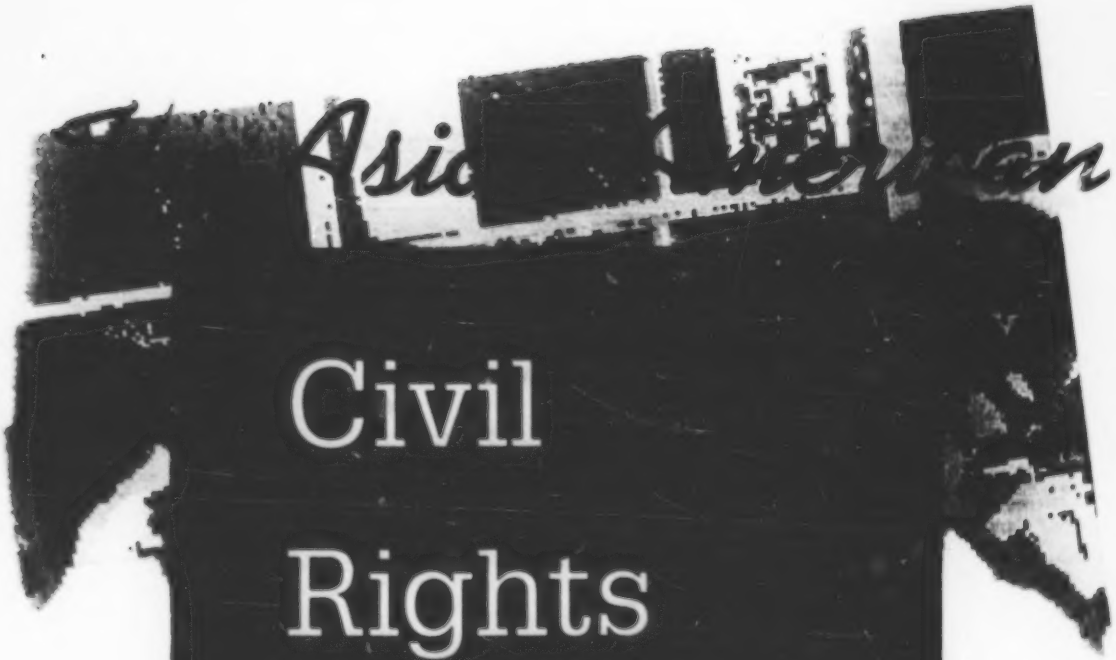

Civil Rights Resource Guide

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ASIAN AMERICAN RESOURCE WORKSHOP

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The Asian American

Civil Rights Resource Guide

Institute for Asian American Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston

In Cooperation With

Massachusetts Asian American Commission
Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants
Asian American Resource Workshop

January 1997

For copies of the Asian American Civil Rights Resource Guide contact:

Institute for Asian American Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Healey Library 10-7
Boston, Massachusetts 02125
Telephone (617) 287-5650
Fax (617) 287-5656
asian_am@umbsky.cc.umb.edu

Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants
18 Tremont Street, 6th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02106
Telephone (617) 727-7888
Fax (617) 727-1822

Asian American Resource Workshop
160 Kneeland Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02111-2715
Telephone (617) 426-5313
Fax (617) 542-4900
aarw@usa.pipeline.com

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Contents

Introduction v

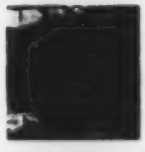
1. Hate Crimes 1

2. Employment Discrimination 9

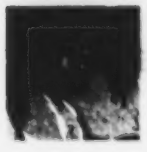
3. Housing Discrimination 15

4. Education Discrimination 25

5. Domestic Violence 31



6. Public Accommodations Discrimination 39



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Introduction

The rapid growth of the Asian American population in the United States and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has substantially influenced the cities, towns, and neighborhoods where Asian Americans have settled. Americans of Asian ancestry, more diverse than ever before, contribute greatly to the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic life of our communities. Many are inspiring examples of determination, perseverance, and pride.

The expanded presence of Asian Americans unfortunately has been accompanied as well by a disturbing rise in hate crimes, discrimination, and acts of domestic violence. The lives of too many Asian Americans have been marked by prejudice, discrimination, and assaults on their physical well-being, personal dignity, and civil rights. A few years ago, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights characterized bigotry and violence against Asian Americans as "a serious national problem."

Asian Americans realize that while mistreatment has increased it is not new. The history of Asians in America is replete with abuses directed against them from virtually every segment of society and from every level of government. Other racial and ethnic groups in America as well have experienced the sting of hate and discrimination.

Fortunately with the passage of time Asian Americans and other groups are now able to turn to a number of federal and state statutes aimed at protecting their civil rights. Governmental, legal, and community organizations help to provide a range of services for those who may have been victimized.

This guide is designed to assist Asian Americans in Massachusetts to identify some of their basic rights, to outline steps to take when those rights may be in jeopardy, and to identify resources that may be marshalled for information, support, and action. The key areas focused upon here are: 1) hate crimes, 2) employment, 3) housing, 4) education, 5) domestic violence, and 6) public accommodations.

The information contained in this document has been carefully compiled utilizing a variety of sources and is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Assuredly, however, a short guide cannot be exhaustive—every instance where rights may be violated, potential remedies, and resources have not been identified. Furthermore, while the guide details many of the considerable protections and resources that currently exist, it also serves to remind us of the need for greater vigilance. Individuals and community organizations along with government agencies must receive more support in their struggle to enhance and preserve the legitimate rights of all Asian Americans.

We thank and acknowledge the many individuals, organizations, and agencies who were instrumental in making this publication possible. The initial idea of developing this guide was advanced by the Massachusetts Asian American Commission (AAC) and, especially, its Civil Rights Subcommittee led by Mary Truong. The AAC, the Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston (IAAS), the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI), and the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) collaborated in turning the idea into reality. Susan R. Weld and Mary Truong of the AAC, Paul Watanabe, Hiep Chu, and Shirley Mark of IAAS, Nam Pham, Jessica Yu, and Tom Chung of MORI, and Marianne Soohoo, Koshy Mathews, and Lihbin Shiao of AARW planned the project.

Paul Watanabe and Shirley Mark were the project's coordinators, and Shirley Mark was also the primary author with assistance from Paul Watanabe. Andrew Leong of the University of Massachusetts Boston was the chief author of the section on public accommodations. Marilyn Wu of IAAS was responsible for graphic

design and production. Assistance in collecting information included in the guide was provided by Rahul Sakhuja of MORI, Long Nguyen of Viet-AID, Quoc Tran of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), Po Wang of the Boston Human Rights Commission, and Shauna Lo and Megan Smith of IAAS. Photographs were contributed by the Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project, Chinese Progressive Association, and IAAS.

Several professionals in the field of civil rights reviewed and commented upon various sections and drafts of the guide. These individuals included Richard Cole, Emily Den, Frederick H. Dow, Francisco Gonzalez, Monica Hales, Zenobia T. Lai, Marilyn Lee-Tom, Andrew Leong, Cynthia Mark, Lihbin Shiao, Marianne Soohoo, and Cheng Imm Tan. In addition to the staff of the major collaborators, staff from the following organizations were particularly generous with their time and resources: Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Greater Boston Legal Services/Asian Outreach Program, MCAD, U.S. Department of Education/Office for Civil Rights, and the Office of the Attorney General, Civil Rights Division. Finally, support from The Boston Foundation to the IAAS was instrumental to the completion of this project.

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Institute for Asian American Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston

Susan R. Weld and Ilyas Bhatti, Co-Chairs
Massachusetts Asian American Commission

Nam Pham, Director
Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants

Tracey Tsugawa, Director
Asian American Resource Workshop

January 1997

1

Hate Crimes

Have you been seriously intimidated, threatened or physically attacked because of your ethnicity, national origin, color, or race? Have you been harassed to the point where you felt your safety was at risk?

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HATE CRIMES

2

HATE CRIMES

General Information

According to the laws of Massachusetts:

A hate crime is any criminal act motivated by bias or bigotry where the individual is targeted because of his/her race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexual orientation. (M.G.L., Chapter 265, §37 or 39; M.G.L. c. 266, §127A; M.G.L. c. 272, §92A)

"No person, whether or not acting under color of law, shall by force or threat of force, willfully injure, intimidate, or interfere with, or oppress or threaten any other person in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth or by the Constitution or laws of the United States..." (M.G.L., Chapter 265, §37)

"Whoever commits an assault or a battery upon a person or damages the real or personal property of another for the purpose of intimidation because of said **person's race, color, religion, or national origin, sexual orientation, or disability**, shall be punished by a fine..., or by imprisonment in a house of correction..., or both." (M.G.L. Chapter 265, §39)

Hate-related violence may be distinguished from other acts of violence in part by the objective circumstances surrounding an incident. These conditions may include the perpetrator's attitudes toward the group to which the victim belongs or identifies with as well as any prior history of aggression toward that group or other similarly identified groups. The following definition may assist in determining whether an incident is motivated by bias:

The definition of *Bias Motive* is: "Hatred, hostility, or negative attitudes towards, or prejudice against, any group or individual on account of race, religion, ethnicity, handicap, gender, or sexual orientation, which is a contributing factor, in whole or in part in the commission of a criminal act." (M.G.L. Ch. 265) A bias motive can be inferred from the presence of one or more bias indicators.

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The specific forms of bias covered by the Hate Crimes Reporting Act are:

- Racial/Ethnic/National Group
- Religious Bias
- Sexual Orientation Bias
- Handicap Bias
- Gender Bias

The following list of indicators can be supportive of a finding of bias in a crime:

- The offender and the victim were of different racial, religious, ethnic/national origin, handicap, gender or sexual orientation groups.
- Bias-related oral comments, written statements, or gestures made by the offender which indicate his/her bias.
- Bias-related drawings, markings or symbols were left at the crime scene.
- Certain objects which indicate bias were used.
- The victim is a member of a racial, religious, ethnic/national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation group which is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group.
- A substantial portion of the community where the crime occurred perceives that the incident was motivated by bias.
- The victim was engaged in activities promoting his/her racial, religious, ethnic/national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation group.
- The incident coincided with a holiday relating to a racial, religious, ethnic/national origin, handicap or sexual orientation group.

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What to do if you have been subjected to harassment or violence and you believe that it is due to your race, color, national origin, religion, or ethnicity:

- Immediately seek police protection and/or medical attention if you have been physically attacked. Call 911 (the police emergency number) if it is available in your community.

- Make sure that the doctor or nurse notes in the medical record how you were injured and what type of injuries you suffered. Take pictures of the injuries (including cuts, abrasions or bruises) in case you decide to later take action against your attacker. Keep intact (that is, don't alter anything) any physical evidence of the incident such as the clothing or shoes you were wearing, or other evidence of the incident or altercation.

- Write down the facts immediately (including the date and time when the incident occurred, where it occurred, persons involved, names of possible witnesses, and any other important details). Having an accurate record of what happened is important if you decide to take later action to stop the harassment or violence. Make copies of these notes and put the copy in a safe place.

- Explore your legal options. Speak with an attorney, your District Attorney or the Attorney General's office (see listing below).

- Contact an advocacy organization such as the SafetyNet Hate Violence Prevention Project for free and confidential support and information about your options (see listing below).

Some legal rights are lost if you do not act within a certain timeframe. Be sure to act quickly.

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Government Agencies

City

Your local Police Department
Call 911 if it is an emergency,
or 411 to obtain the telephone number.

County

Your District Attorney's office (see directory)
Ask to speak with a Victim/Witness Advocate.

State

Office of the Attorney General, Civil Rights Division
One Ashburton Place, 19th Fl.
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-2200

The Attorney General's Office seeks relief on behalf of victims of hate crimes.

Legal Resources

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law of the Boston Bar Association
294 Washington St., Suite 940
Boston, MA 02108-4608
Telephone (617) 482-1145
Fax (617) 482-4392

Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights provides a safeguard for the civil, social and economic liberties of residents in the Greater Boston area and throughout Massachusetts through free legal representation for victims of racial and national origin discrimination.

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Community Organizations

Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW)
SafetyNet Hate Violence Prevention Project
160 Kneeland Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 426-5313
Fax (617) 542-4900
Hotline (617) 542-4800

SafetyNet assists individuals in reporting hate crimes and obtaining access to the law enforcement and judicial system; provides free and confidential support to victims; provides referral services; assists victims to seek remedies through the legal system; conducts educational workshops on hate crimes/civil rights.

Languages available: Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese and Khmer/Cambodian.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
126 High Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 457-8800
Fax (617) 988-6244

The ADL records and documents cases of anti-Semitism and racial bigotry; exposes hate organizations to public scrutiny; works with law enforcement, the legal system and community organizations to combat racial violence and bigotry; assists victims to access remedies through the legal system; conducts educational workshops and training on hate crimes and civil rights.

Source materials and organizations for this chapter include:

To Live in Peace... Responding to Anti-Asian Violence in Boston, published by the Asian American Resource Workshop (October 1987).

HATE CRIME Resource Manual, published by the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes, the Massachusetts Committee on Criminal Justice, and the

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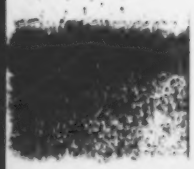
Center for Applied Social Research at Northeastern University (October 1994).

Asian American Resource Workshop, Safety Net Hate Violence Prevention Project.

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD).



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2

Employment Discrimination

Do you feel that you have been discriminated against while applying for a job? Do you believe that you have been unfairly passed over for a promotion? Have you been fired or dismissed from your job because of your race, ethnicity, or gender?

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

10

General Information

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

Employment discrimination can occur at any time during the hiring, promotion, or termination process. It frequently involves discrimination in work conditions, salary, benefits, and disciplinary actions by employers. A victim of unlawful discrimination may be able to obtain the following remedies: hiring, reinstatement, back pay, front pay, compensatory and punitive damages, and attorney's fees.

The primary federal law to enforce the right to equal employment opportunity is known as "Title VII." It was passed as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The purpose of Title VII is to end the unfairness, inconvenience, and humiliation of discrimination and to provide equal access to employment to all persons regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Persons who are not U. S. citizens can use Title VII to sue employers, including private employers, government agencies, labor unions, and corporations.

Under Title VII, an employer may **not**:

- Refuse to accept from a job applicant any document to verify work authorization that appears on the I-9 form's list of acceptable documents. For example, an employer cannot require a "green card" from an immigrant who has offered another acceptable document showing that s/he is authorized to work by the Immigration and Naturalization Service;

- Refuse to hire, deny a promotion, or fire an employee in a discriminatory manner;

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- Discriminate against employees in any of the terms or conditions of employment including salary, benefits, hours of employment, discipline, promotions, or training. For example, an employer cannot allow white employees to take coffee breaks and deny the same right to employees of color; or discipline employees of color more severely than white employees for similar infractions;

- Limit, segregate, or classify employees in ways that negatively affect their status as employees. For example, an employer cannot forbid bilingual employees from speaking in their native language or require them to speak English at all times without a legitimate business reason;

- Misrepresent the availability of a job or promotion; or advertise jobs in a discriminatory manner;

- Interfere with, coerce, threaten, or intimidate a worker in the exercise or enjoyment of rights under Title VII.

Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination in the employment context include the Civil Rights Act of 1866 (42 U.S.C. § 1981, known as "Section 1981"), which protects against discrimination based on race and national origin, and the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which makes it illegal to discriminate based on a person's immigration status or citizenship.

The Massachusetts Fair Employment Law (M.G.L. c. 151B) and the Equal Rights Act (M.G.L. c. 93, §§ 102 and 103) provide similar protections to employees.

The Massachusetts Fair Employment Law declares that it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, ancestry or disability.

The Massachusetts Equal Rights Act extends the protection to include age and disability and covers employers with fewer than six employees. It provides that all people, of any race, color, gender, religious creed or national origin, can enjoy the same rights as "white male citizens" to make and enforce contracts, including employment contracts. This law upholds the right of persons to use the laws to protect themselves and their property and to equally participate in court proceedings. In 1990, the Act was amended to protect persons against discrimination based on age and disability. A plaintiff using the Equal Rights

Act has three years to file a lawsuit from the time the alleged act of discrimination occurred. [Note: this law is only applicable in cases where M. G. L. Ch. 151B does not cover an employer.]

What to do if you believe that you have been discriminated against:

12

- A charge of discrimination may be filed within 180 days of the discriminatory act (300 days in some cases) at either the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) (see listing below).
- Legal advice may be sought from an appropriate legal assistance organization (see listing below).
- If you are not ready to file a charge of discrimination (and it is within 180 days of the last act of discrimination), you should keep a record of all acts that you believe may have violated your rights.

Resources

Government Agencies

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
One Congress Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 565-3200
Fax (617) 565-3196

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)
Headquarters
One Ashburton Place, Rm. 601
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-3990
Fax (617) 720-6053

Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street, Suite 315
Springfield, MA 01103
Telephone (413) 739-2145

Legal Resources

Boston Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service
16 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 742-0625

13

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)
Asian Outreach Program
197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 371-1270, x324

The Asian Outreach Program provides bilingual/bicultural legal counsel and advocacy to Asian victims of abuse. At least one staff attorney is assigned to work on domestic abuse cases. The Asian Outreach Program will assist the victim to understand her/his rights, identify legal options, and represent the client in court cases. Services are provided free of charge (if low-income requirements are met).

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law of the Boston Bar Association
294 Washington St., Suite 940
Boston, MA 02108-4608
Telephone (617) 482-1145
Fax (617) 482-4392

The Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights provides a safeguard for the civil, social and economic liberties of residents in the Greater Boston area and throughout Massachusetts through free legal representation for victims of racial and national origin discrimination.

Legal Advocacy Resource Center (LARC) of the Boston Bar Association
197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 742-9179

Massachusetts Bar Association
Dial a Lawyer and Lawyer Referral Service
20 West Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 542-9103
(800) 392-6164

14

Community Organizations

Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)/Workers Center
33 Harrison Avenue, 3rd Fl.
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 357-4499
Fax (617) 357-9611

Languages available: Cantonese, Toisanese, and Mandarin.

CPA works for full equality and empowerment of the Chinese community in greater Boston, to improve living and working conditions and to involve ordinary community members in decision-making.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

Source materials and organizations for this chapter include:

Asian American Engineers in the Massachusetts High Technology Industry: Are Glass Ceilings a Reality?, unpublished Masters thesis by Shirley Mark (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1990).

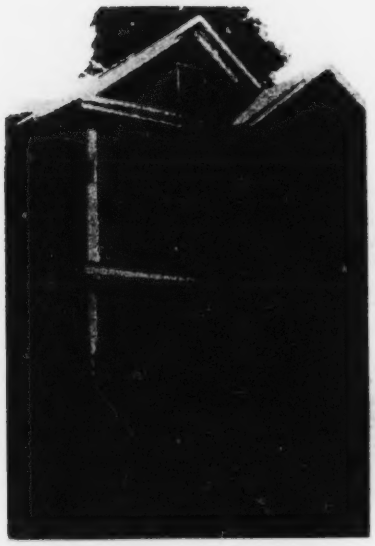
Citizenship Status Discrimination is Illegal!, a pamphlet produced by the Chinese Progressive Association Workers Center, the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition and the Office of Special Counsel.

Fair Employment Law, published by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

A Curriculum Packet about Immigration-Related Job Discrimination, produced by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition and the Office of Special Counsel (October 1991).

Newcomer Civil Rights Education Project Training Manual, published by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association (1994).

1995 *Recommendations of the Federal Glass Ceiling Commission* (Washington, D. C.).



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Housing Discrimination

Have you called or visited an apartment and when you arrived the landlord informed you that it was already rented out? Do you suspect that you have been denied a chance to rent an apartment or to buy a house because of your ethnicity, race, or religion?

16

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

General Information

You have a right to rent an apartment or to buy a house that you can afford free from discrimination. Housing discrimination may take many forms. For example, a realtor may only show you apartments or houses in selected neighborhoods even if you have not requested him or her to do so. Housing cannot be denied to you because of your:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Color
- Sex
- National Origin
- Religion
- Children or Family Status
- Disability
- Marital Status
- Rental Subsidy (such as Section 8)
- Source of Income (such as Welfare or Social Security Income (SSI))
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Veteran Status

What to do if you believe that you have been discriminated against:

- Write down the facts immediately such as the date and time when the alleged discrimination occurred and the name, address, and phone number of the people with whom you dealt.

- Describe the physical appearance of the persons to whom you spoke with or who you saw.
- Write down everything you and the other person or persons said.
- If you answered a newspaper ad and you still have or can get the newspaper, save the whole page on which the ad appeared.
- Seek legal advice (see listing below).
- File a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) and/or the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (see listing below).

Some legal rights are lost if you do not act within 180 days. Be sure to act quickly.

Resources

Government Agencies

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)
Headquarters
One Ashburton Place, Rm 601
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-3990
Fax (617) 720-6053

Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street, Suite 315
Springfield, MA 01103
Telephone (413) 739-2145

Fair Housing Offices or Commissions
Note: If your city/town is not listed below, call your City/Town Hall for the number to your Fair Housing or Human Rights Office

Boston Fair Housing Commission
Boston City Hall
One City Hall Plaza, Suite 966
Boston, MA 02201
Telephone (617) 635-4408

Brookline Human Relations/Youth Resources Commission
11 Pierce Street
Brookline, MA 02146
Telephone (617) 730-2330
Fax (617) 730-2296
TDD (617) 730-2327

Cambridge Human Rights Commission
51 Inman Street, 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
Telephone (617) 349-4396

Lowell Human Services Department
Housing Advocate
City of Lowell
50 Arcand Drive
Lowell, MA 01852
Telephone (508) 970-4106

Lynn Fair Housing Committee
Three City Hall Square, Room 315
Lynn, MA 01901
Telephone (617) 598-4000

Newton City Hall
Fair Housing Officer
Planning & Development Dept.
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02159
Telephone (617) 552-7135 x107

Quincy Fair Housing Committee
Human Rights Commission
Quincy City Hall
1305 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02169
Telephone (617) 376-1515

Somerville Fair Housing Commission
City of Somerville
50 Evergreen Avenue
Somerville, MA 02145
Telephone (617) 625-6600 x2560

Springfield Fair Housing Director
1414 State Street #103
Springfield, MA 00000
Telephone (413) 787-6161
Fax: (413) 787-6458

Worcester Human Rights Commission
Worcester City Hall, Rm. 408
Worcester, MA 01608
Telephone (508) 799-1000

Legal Resources

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law of the Boston Bar Association
294 Washington St., Suite 940
Boston, MA 02108-4608
Telephone (617) 482-1145
Fax (617) 482-4392

The Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights provides a safeguard for the civil, social and economic liberties of residents in the Greater Boston area and throughout Massachusetts through free legal representation for victims of racial and national origin discrimination.

20

Massachusetts Bar Association/
Dial-a-Lawyer and Lawyer Referral Service
20 West Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 542-9103
(800) 392-6164

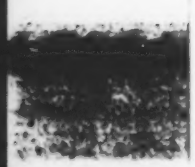
Massachusetts Coalition for Homelessness
of the Boston Bar Assn.
16 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 451-0707

Boston Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service
16 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 742-0625

Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and
Homelessness
16 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108-3774
Telephone (617) 723-0885

Legal Advocacy Resource Center (LARC)
of the Boston Bar Association
197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 742-9179

Merrimack Valley Legal Services
Lawrence
11 Lawrence St., Suite 324
Lawrence, MA 01840-1423
Telephone (508) 687-1177
(508) 687-6274



Lowell
35 John St., Suite 302
Lowell, MA 01852-1101
Telephone (508) 458-1465
(508) 458-3481

Housing Discrimination Project (HDP)
Main Office
57 Suffolk Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
Telephone (800) 675-7309
(413) 539-9796
Fax (413) 533-9978

Worcester County Office
Telephone (800) 675-7309

Pittsfield Office
Telephone (413) 445-6702

Community Organizations

Statewide

Massachusetts Tenants Organization (MTO)
14 Beacon St., Rm. 809
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 367-6628
Hotline (617) 367-6260

Although MTO focuses primarily on the Boston area their TENANTS HOTLINE will provide tenants rights information for anyone in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants
784 Washington St. #504
Dorchester, MA 02124
Telephone (617) 825-9750

The Mass. Union focuses on the rights of residents of publicly subsidized housing.

Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC)
99 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 426-0303

Many communities, towns, and cities have local community development corporations that have a tenants rights program. Contact the MACDC to find a local CDC.

Boston

Boston HUD Tenants Alliance
353 Columbus Avenue
Boston, MA 02116
Telephone (617) 267-2949

City Life
335 Lamartine Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Telephone (617) 524-3541

East Boston Ecumenical Community Council
28 Paris Street
East Boston, MA 02128
Telephone (617) 567-2750
Fax (617) 569-5946

Brookline

Brookline Tenants Union
P.O. Box 95
Brookline, MA 02146
Telephone (617) 498-9811

Cambridge

Cambridge Tenants Union
1151 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone (617) 576-1006

Cambridge Eviction Free Zone
11 Inman St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
Telephone (617) 868-2900

Lowell

Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)
741 Merrimack St.
Lowell, MA 01854
Telephone (508) 452-7523

Lynn

Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc. (LEO)
113 Munroe St.
Lynn, MA 01901
Telephone (617) 581-7220

Northampton

Hampshire Community Action Commission, Inc. (HCAC)
56 Vernon St.
Northampton, MA 01060
Telephone (413) 584-4577

Quincy

Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. (QCAP)
1509 Hancock St., Suite 310
Quincy, MA 02169
Telephone (617) 479-8181

Source materials and organizations for this chapter include:

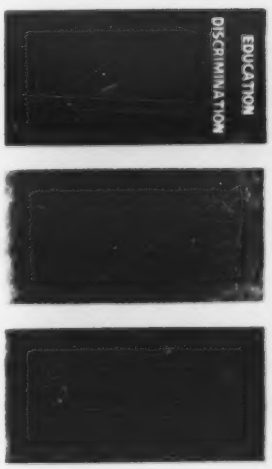
"Discrimination" in *Legal Tactics: Self Defense for Tenants in Massachusetts, 5th edition*, Barbara Rabin and Judith Liben, published by Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc. (1993).

Massachusetts Tenants Organization.

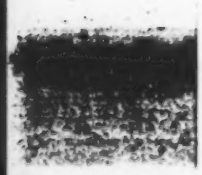
Newcomer Civil Rights Education Project Training Manual , published by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association (1994).

4

Education Discrimination



Do you feel that you or your child may have been treated unfairly by school personnel because of your ethnicity, race, or national origin? For example, do you believe that you or your child may have been discriminated against in seeking admission to a school or educational program?



EDUCATION DISCRIMINATION

General Information

If you, your child, or someone you know has been discriminated against at an elementary, secondary, or vocational school, a college or university, or other educational agency (for example, a vocational rehabilitation agency, a library, or a museum) which receives U. S. Department of Education funds, you have the right to file a complaint.

Federal laws prohibit discrimination in such programs and activities. Discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin is prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

> No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.

Title VI also protects those students with limited English language skills from being denied the opportunity to participate in or benefit from regular or special education school instruction programs. School districts are required to take "affirmative steps" to rectify the language deficiency in order to open its instructional program to these students.

Note: Sex discrimination is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination on the basis of handicap is prohibited by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and age discrimination is prohibited by the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U. S. Department of Education has the authority to enforce these laws (see listing below). OCR investigates complaints filed by individuals or their representatives. It also initiates compliance reviews of recipient institutions and agencies and monitors the progress in eliminating discriminatory practices of institutions and agencies that are implementing plans negotiated by OCR. OCR attempts to resolve compliance problems through negotiation. If unable to do so, however, OCR initiates the actions necessary to enforce the law. OCR also offers technical assistance to help recipients of federal funds to voluntarily comply with civil rights laws and to inform citizens of their rights under these laws. OCR distributes information and materials and provides consultations on the requirements of the civil rights laws under its authority.

You are also protected under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 5 and Chapter 76, Section 16:

> No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study at a public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

Complaints alleging violations of this law and any other concern regarding students who may not be receiving educational services or procedural protections as required by law may be filed with the Massachusetts Department of Education (MDOE) (see listing below). If your case is under investigation by the MDOE, the Office for Civil Rights may defer to the state office pending resolution. If the case is not resolved to your satisfaction, however, you may ask OCR to intervene and/or conduct its own investigation.

What to do if you believe that you have been discriminated against:

- Be prepared to give a statement describing your concern.
- Write down the names of all persons involved in the situation (for example, the teacher's name, principal, vice-principal, and anyone else involved).

- Fully describe the situation. For example, does this pertain to a specific incident or has this been a long-standing problem?
- Indicate what attempts you have made, if any, to resolve the problem.
- If corrective actions have been taken, you should explain those actions. For example: Who took action? When? Did changes occur to your satisfaction?
- You may call the Massachusetts Department of Education or the U. S. Department of Education/Office For Civil Rights about where and how to file a complaint (see listing below).

Resources

Government Agencies

Federal

Office for Civil Rights - Region I Office
(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)
U.S. Department of Education
J.W. McCormack Post Office & Courthouse
Room 222, 01-0061
Boston, MA 02109-4557
Telephone (617) 223-9662
TDD (617) 223-9695

State

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Education (MDOE)
Program Quality Assurance Service Cluster
350 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148-5023
Telephone (617) 388-3300 x291
Fax (617) 388-3396
TTY:NET Relay (800) 439-2370

The MDOE addresses complaints involving public, elementary and secondary schools only— private schools, colleges, and

universities are not covered by this office. It investigates all complaints by individuals of potential cases of discrimination; state law requiring bilingual education; special education law. The MDOE makes every effort to resolve these matters within 60 days from the receipt of a signed Intake Information Form.

Legal Resources

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law of the Boston Bar Assn.
294 Washington St., Suite 940
Boston, MA 02108-4608
Telephone (617) 482-1145
Fax (617) 482-4392

The Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights provides a safeguard for the civil, social and economic liberties of residents in the Greater Boston area and throughout Massachusetts through free legal representation for victims of racial and national origin discrimination.

Source materials and organizations for this chapter include:

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Region I.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education/Legal Department.

5

Domestic Violence

Do you believe that you have been abused by your husband, partner or family member? Have you been battered or threatened?

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

32

General Information

Domestic or family violence is the abuse of power or control. It is behavior used by one person to control another through force or threats. A batterer makes a choice to strike, hit, kick, punch, burn, bite, threaten, or intimidate the victim.

Domestic violence includes physical and sexual attacks and threats. These violent acts are criminal and the batterer can be prosecuted for committing them. The acts are a means of controlling the victim's thoughts, feelings and behavior. The threats and/or beatings generally happen more often over time, last longer, and cause greater physical injuries unless action is taken to interrupt them.

Emotional abuse and insulting words are almost always part of the abuse pattern, but are not considered criminal acts. The wounds from these injuries, however, may be more difficult to heal.

Domestic violence is not caused by or provoked by the actions or inactions of the victim. Domestic violence is not directly caused by alcohol or drug abuse, depression, lack of money, lack of a job, mental illness or abuse as a child. These problems, however, often create additional stress in a relationship and may increase the risk of violence. Many abusers blame the victim or others for their violent acts and do not take responsibility for the abusive behavior. Many studies show that abusers may not change unless there is serious intervention by the courts or police.

According to Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. c. 209A) the Abuse Prevention Act, also known as Chapter 209A, "abuse" is defined as: the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members, including:

- the attempt to cause or causing physical harm;

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- placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm;
- causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat or duress.

In addition to charging the abuser with Assault and Battery, the victim can also apply for a civil restraining order, also called a 209A Restraining Order.

An Abuse Prevention Order, called a "209A Order," or a "protective order," or "restraining order," is a civil court order intended to provide protection from physical or sexual harm caused by force or threat of harm from a family or household member. You can obtain an order against:

- a spouse or former spouse
- a present or former household member
- a relative by blood or a present or former relative by marriage
- the parent of your minor child
- a person with whom you have or had a substantial dating relationship

What to do if you believe that you have been abused:

- **If you are in immediate danger, call 911 (the police emergency number) if it is available in your community**. You should do this even if you speak very little or no English because some police departments are automatically informed of the address which corresponds with your telephone number. Be prepared to give your name, address and describe the situation. Ask when you should expect an officer to respond to your call. Your police department will get you to safety and direct you to professionals who can help you.

- **Seek help no matter how long ago the abuse occurred**. Call the Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project (see listing below) or your local shelter to seek counseling and other services. Trained, sensitive professionals will be able to help you understand your rights and your options. They can also help you to assess the degree of danger you may be living in so that your safety and that of your children are not at risk. They can also assist you in filing a temporary restraining order so that you have some protection.

- **Determine your legal options.**
  The Asian Outreach Program at Greater Boston Legal Services has bilingual, culturally sensitive attorneys who can help you (see listing below). These attorneys can provide you with temporary restraining orders, can represent you at 10-Day Hearings, divorce (including child custody), and Removal of Conditional Status (with the Immigration and Naturalization Service) for abused women. Some of the legal services offered include custody and visitation rights, and Child Support Orders according to the Child Support Guidelines.

- **Remember that you are not alone.**
  During 1994, the Asian Task Force on Domestic Violence received over 5,000 telephone calls (including crisis calls, advocacy requests, and informational calls), served 169 families in its counseling program, and placed 40 women and 69 children in shelters. In 1995 ten percent of those who died as a result of domestic violence in the state were Asian.

  If you have been physically or emotionally battered, you may feel shame or isolation from others. Professionals can assist you to address the problem and what you can do about it. Meeting with other victims of abuse can break feelings of isolation. It can also be helpful for victims to give each other strength and support.

Resources

Government Agencies

Office of the Attorney General
Victim Compensation and Assistance Division
One Ashburton Place, 19th Fl.
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-2200

Your District Attorney (see Directory, Legal Resources)

Legal Resources

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)
Asian Outreach Program
197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 371-1270 x324

35

The Asian Outreach Program provides bilingual/bicultural legal counsel and advocacy to Asian victims of abuse. At least one staff attorney is assigned to work on domestic abuse cases. The Asian Outreach Program will assist the victim to understand her/his rights, identify legal options, and represent the client in court cases. Services are provided free of charge (if low-income requirements are met).

Languages: Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

Community Organizations

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Inc.
Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project (ASAP)
P.O. Box 120108
Boston, MA 02112
Hotline (617) 338-2355
Telephone (617) 338-2350

Languages available: several Chinese dialects (including Cantonese and Mandarin), Vietnamese and Khmer/Cambodian.

The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is a coalition of individuals and organizations which aims to eliminate family violence and to strengthen Asian families and communities. The Asian Task Force formed in 1987 and is led by a diverse group of Asian community leaders concerned about the rise in, and inadequate response to, domestic violence in local Asian American communities. The Task Force is active in preventive community education and also in providing direct services and safe housing for victims of abuse.

In 1993, the Asian Task Force established the Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project (ASAP). The ASAP is New England's first and only shelter program for battered Asian women providing multilingual and multicultural services to victims of domestic violence. ASAP provides safety and support services to victims of family violence to lead independent, violence-free lives.

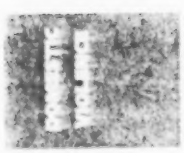
Emerge
2380 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02141
Telephone (617) 547-9879
Voice Mail (617) 422-1548

Emerge is committed to confronting violence against women by working with individual men and by working with courts, police and social service programs to hold batterers accountable. Among its numerous projects, Emerge has established treatment and outreach services for Asian men who batter.

Languages available: Khmer/Cambodian, Spanish, Vietnamese

Harbor Me, Inc.
P. O. Box 505634
Chelsea, MA 02150
Hotline (617) 889-2111
Telephone (617) 884-8974
Fax (617) 884-9171

Languages available: Khmer/Cambodian, Spanish



Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups
14 Beacon Street, Suite 507
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 248-0922
Fax (617) 248-0902

South Cove Community Health Center (SCCHC)
145 South Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 521-6700
Fax (617) 521-6799

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Main Clinic
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 482-7555
Fax (617) 482-2930

Satellite Offices
SCCHC/MICAS
254 Adams Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
Telephone (617) 825-1861

SCCHC
191 North Common Street
Lynn, MA 01905
Telephone (617) 595-2300

SCCHC
North Quincy Center
275 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02170
Telephone (617) 745-0280

South Cove Community Health Center provides comprehensive health services to the Asian American community. Mental health services include counseling for victims of abuse.

Languages available: Cantonese, Khmer/Cambodian, Mandarin, Vietnamese

Brookline Human Relations/Youth Resources Commission
11 Pierce Street
Brookline, MA 02146
Telephone (617) 730-2330
Fax (617) 730-2296
TDD (617) 730-2327

Source materials and organizations for this chapter include:

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Asian Outreach Program, Greater Boston Legal Services.

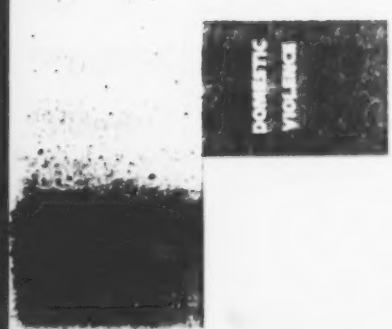
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Inc.

Massachusetts General Laws 209A (M.G.L. 209A) Abuse Prevention Act.

38

Women: Help Stop Abuse!, published by the Dorchester Women's Committee and the Asian Outreach Program at Greater Boston Legal Services.

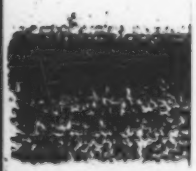
Documents produced by the Office of the Attorney General.



6

Public Accommodations Discrimination

Have you gone to a restaurant and been denied service because of your ethnicity, race, or national origin? Have other public places and establishments failed to provide you with services or access?



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40

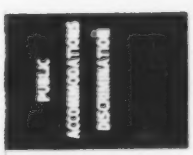
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS DISCRIMINATION

General Information

You have the right to enter and use places deemed to be a "public accommodation" and to not be denied access because of your race, color, religion, or national origin. A place of public accommodation is broadly defined as a place that is open to the general public regardless of whether you pay to get in or not. Examples of places of public accommodation include:

- restaurants, nightclubs, and bars
- hotels and inns
- grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies, laundromats, and gas stations
- buses, trains, subways, taxis, and airplanes
- movie theaters, parks, and video arcades
- hospitals and clinics
- sports arenas

Recent court cases regarding "private" clubs, organizations, and other groups have considered them to be places of public accommodation. Different factors may determine their status. If you have been denied access to what you thought was a public place, you should seek legal advice. If found to be "public," it cannot discriminate against you.



Federal and Massachusetts laws confirm your right to access to public accommodations. This area has a long history. For example, people of color were not allowed access to the same schools, lunch counters, and restrooms as

were whites. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, also known as "Title II," dealt with this discrimination. Title II prohibits anyone from acting to "intimidate, threaten, or coerce" another to prevent equal access to public accommodations. Title II also makes it illegal to punish someone for asserting their rights to access. One should be aware that federal laws can be complicated. There are often special exemptions in different situations. Although motels are considered places of public accommodation, for example, and generally come under Title II, they are not covered if there are only five rooms or fewer for rent and the owner of the establishment lives in the same place.

Massachusetts law in this area has both civil and criminal components. The criminal sections deal with 1. discriminatory advertising, e.g., signs, television and radio advertisements, (MGL c. 272, Section 92A) and 2. discriminatory admission or treatment, e.g., denying access to or treating a person differently at a place of public accommodation based upon that person's race, national origin, or color (MGL c. 272, Section 98). Both of these criminal offenses carry a monetary fine and/or jail time. The civil component of the law allows you to file a lawsuit against the perpetrators of the discriminatory act. In addition to the above state laws, there is also the possibility of utilizing the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act (MGL c. 12, Section 11H and I), which makes it a crime to make use of force or the threat thereof to deny one equal access to public accommodations.

What to do if you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to public accommodations:

- Write down the facts immediately detailing time and date of the incident, what was said and by whom, and other actions that were taken.
- Consult an attorney before filing a complaint.
- Depending upon the specifics of the complaint, you may be required to file a written complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) within six months of the discriminatory act (see listing below). Ninety days after filing with MCAD, you may elect to take your case from the MCAD and instead file a lawsuit under Title II. A lawsuit arising out of the discriminatory act must be filed within three years from when it occurred.

Government Agencies

Federal

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Room 1875
Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
Telephone (617) 565-1340
TDD (617) 565-1343
Fax (617) 565-3809
Hotline 800 368-1019
www.os.dhhs.gov:80/progorg/ocr/ocrhmpg.html

This office handles complaints of discrimination by health care or human service providers such as hospitals, nursing homes, social service agencies, etc.

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
Headquarters
One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-3990
Fax (617) 720-6053

Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street, Suite 315
Springfield, MA 01103
Telephone (413) 739-2145

Check with your local human rights or human relations office.

Legal Resources

Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law of the Boston Bar Association
294 Washington St., Suite 940
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 482-1145
Fax (617) 482-4392

43

The Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights provides a safeguard for the civil, social and economic liberties of residents in the Greater Boston area and throughout Massachusetts through free legal representation for victims of racial and national origin discrimination.

Source materials and organizations for this chapter include:

Newcomer Civil Rights Education Project Training Manual, published by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association (1994).

Directory

Selected Organizational Resources

A partial listing of:

- *Government & Law Enforcement Agencies*
- *Legal Resources*
- *Community-based Organizations*

Government & Law Enforcement Agencies

46

Attorney General, Office of the
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-2200
Fax (617) 727-3251

Boston Human Rights Commission
Boston City Hall, Room 716
Boston, MA 02201
Telephone (617) 635-3562

Boston, City of
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Boston City Hall, Room 708
Boston, MA 02201
Telephone (617) 635-3485

Boston Police Department
Bureau of Neighborhood Services
Contact: Asian American Liaison
154 Berkeley Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Telephone (617) 343-4527

Boston Police Department
Community Service Office
40 Gibson Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
Telephone (617) 436-7057

District Attorney, Office of the
(by county)
All of the district attorneys have Victim Witness Service Bureaus; a few have a specialized unit on domestic violence.

Berkshire District
Office of the District Attorney
42 West Street, P. O. Box 1969
Pittsfield, MA 01202
Telephone (413) 443-5951
Fax (413) 499-6349

Bristol District
Office of the District Attorney
888 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Telephone (508) 997-0711

Cape and Islands District
Office of the District Attorney
3231 Main Street, P. O. Box 455
Barnstable, MA 02630
Telephone (508) 362-8113
Fax (508) 362-8221

District Courthouse Office
Telephone (508) 255-7007

Orleans Office
Telephone (508) 362-2511 x353

Edgartown Office
Telephone (508) 627-7780

Nantucket Office
Telephone (508) 228-4642

Essex District
Office of the District Attorney
Museum Place
One East India Square
Salem, MA 01970
Telephone (508) 745-6610
Fax (508) 741-4971
TTY (508) 741-3163

Hampden District
Office of the District Attorney
Hall of Justice
50 State Street, 3rd Floor
Springfield, MA 01103
Telephone (413) 747-1000
Fax (413) 781-4745

Middlesex District
Office of the District Attorney
Superior Courthouse
40 Thorndike Street, 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02141-1755

Framingham Office
615 Concord St.,
Framingham, MA 01701
Telephone (617) 87504141
Fax (617) 225-0871

Lowell Office
44 Church Street
Lowell, MA 01852
Telephone (508) 458-4440
Fax (508) 225-0871

Somerville Office
21 McGrath Highway
Somerville, MA 02143
Telephone (617) 629-0222
Fax (617) 629-0224

Waltham Office
38 Linden St.,
Waltham, MA 02154
Telephone (617) 893-7140

Norfolk District
Office of the District Attorney
360 Washington Street, P. O. Box 309
Dedham, MA 02026-0855
Telephone (617) 329-5440
Fax (617) 326-7937

Brookline Office
Telephone (617) 738-5072

Quincy Office
1509 Hancock St.,
Quincy, MA 02169
Telephone (617) 479-7506

Stoughton Office
Telephone (617) 344-9227

Wrentham Office
Telephone (508) 384-3788

Northwestern District
(Franklin and Hampshire Counties)
Office of the District Attorney
Main Office
One Court Square
Northampton, MA 01060-3032
Telephone (413) 586-9225
Fax (413) 584-3635

Greenfield Office
238 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
Telephone (413) 774-3286
Fax (413) 773-3278

Orange Office
32 N. Main St.
Orange, MA 01364
Telephone (508) 544-7376

Ware Office
71 South Street
Ware, MA 01082
Telephone (413) 967-3711

Plymouth District
Office of the District Attorney
32 Belmont Street, P. O. Box 1665
Brockton, MA 02403
Telephone (508) 584-8120
Fax (508) 586-3578

Brockton Office
Courthouse
Brockton, MA 02401
Telephone (508) 583-8250 x255

Hingham Office
Courthouse
Hingham, MA 02043
Telephone (617) 749-7000 x148

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Plymouth Office
Courthouse
Plymouth, MA 02360
Telephone (508) 747-4182 x143

West Wareham Office
Courthouse
West Wareham, MA 02576
Telephone (508) 295-8300 x13

Suffolk District
Office of the District Attorney
New Courthouse, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 725-8600
Fax (617) 725-8605

Boston Municipal Court Office
274 Old Courthouse
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 725-8727

Brighton Office
52 Academy Hill Rd.
Brighton, MA 02135
Telephone (617) 782-5236

Charlestown Office
City Square
Charlestown, MA 02129
Telephone (617) 725-8720

Chelsea Office
Telephone (617) 889-4010

Dorchester Office
510 Washington St.
Dorchester, MA 02124
Telephone (617) 287-1195

East Boston Office
37 Meridian St.
East Boston, MA 02128
Telephone (617) 567-8650

Roxbury Office
85 Warren St.
Roxbury, MA 02119
Telephone (617) 445-8618

South Boston Office
535 E. Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127
Telephone (617) 269-7777

West Roxbury Office
3710 Washington St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Telephone (617) 524-8081

Worcester District
Office of the District Attorney
2 Main Street, Rm. 220
Worcester, MA 01608-1506
Telephone (508) 755-8601
Fax (508) 831-9899

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
1 Congress St.
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 565-3200
Fax (617) 565-3196

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)
One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-3990
Fax (617) 720-6053

Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street, Suite 315
Springfield, MA 01103
Telephone (413) 739-2145

Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI)
18 Tremont St., Suite 600
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 727-7888
Fax (617) 727-1822

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U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
J. W. McCormack Post Office & Courthouse
Room 222, 01-0061
Boston, MA 02109-4557
Telephone (617) 223-9662
TDD (617) 223-9695

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office for Civil Rights
John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Room 1875
Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
Telephone (617) 565-1340
TDD (617) 565-1343
Fax (617) 565-3809
Hotline 800 368-1019
www.os.dhhs.gov:80/progorg/ocr/ocrhmpg.html

Legal Resources

Boston Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service
16 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 742-0625

Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS)
Central Office
80 Boylston Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02116
Telephone (617) 482-6212
Fax (617) 695-0930

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) Asian Outreach Program
197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 371-1270 x324

Housing Discrimination Project (HDP)
Main Office
57 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
Telephone (800) 675-7309
(413) 539-9796
Fax (413) 533-9978

Worcester County Office
Telephone (800) 675-7309

Pittsfield Office
Telephone (413) 445-6762

Lawyer's Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness
16 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108-3774
Telephone (617) 723-0885

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law of the Boston Bar Association
294 Washington St., Suite 940
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 482-1145
Fax (617) 482-4392

Legal Advocacy Resource Center (LARC) of the Boston Bar Association
197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 742-9179

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Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts
405 Main Street, Suite 400
Worcester, MA 01608-1725
Telephone (508) 752-3718
(800) 649-3718
Fax (508) 752-5918

Legal Services for Cape Cod and Islands, Inc.
460 West Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601-3653
Telephone (508) 775-7020
(800) 742-4107
Fax (508) 790-3955

Massachusetts Bar Association/Dial a Lawyer and Lawyer Referral Service
20 West Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 542-9103
(800) 392-6164

Massachusetts Coalition for Homelessness of the Boston Bar Association
16 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 451-0707

Merrimack Valley Legal Services
Lawrence Office
11 Lawrence St., Suite 324
Lawrence, MA 01840-1423
Telephone (508) 687-1177
(508) 687-6274

Lowell Office
35 John St., Suite 302
Lowell, MA 01852-1101
Telephone (598) 458-1465
(508) 458-3481

Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.
37 Friend Street
Lynn, MA 01902
Telephone (617) 599-7730

Southeastern Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (SMLAC)
Administrative Offices
558 Pleasant St., Suite 201
New Bedford, MA 02740-6246
Telephone (508) 997-9781
Fax (508) 984-7225

Fall River Office
30 Third St., 3rd Fl.
Fall River, MA 02720
Telephone (508) 676-6264
(800) 287-3777
Fax (508) 676-5861

New Bedford Office
21 South Sixth Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Telephone (508) 996-8576
(800) 244-9023
Fax (508) 992-2383

Western Massachusetts Legal Services
Greenfield Office
55 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
Telephone (413) 774-3747
Fax (413) 772-2880

Holyoke Office
57 Suffolk St., 4th Fl.
Holyoke, MA 01040-5015
Telephone (413) 536-2420
FAX (413) 535-1774

Northampton Office
20 Hampton Ave., Suite 100
Northampton, MA 01060
Telephone (413) 584-4034
Fax (413) 585-0418

Pittsfield Office
152 North St., Suite 155
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Telephone (413) 499-1950
(413) 664-4531

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Springfield Office
145 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103-1993
Telephone (413) 781-7814
Fax (413) 736-3221

Community-Based Organizations

Anti-Defamation League
126 High St.
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 457-0800
Fax (617) 988-6244

Asian American Civic Association
90 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 426-9492
Fax (617) 482-2316

Asian American Lawyers Association of MA, Inc.
P.O. Box 5655
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 570-1809

Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW)
160 Kneeland Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02111-2715
Telephone (617) 426-5313
Fax (617) 542-4900
SafetyNet
Hotline (617) 542-4800
aarw@usa.pipeline.com

Asian Outreach Program, Greater Boston Legal Services
197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
Telephone (617) 371-1270 x324
(617) 371-1222
lai@gbls.org

Asian Sisters in Action (ASIA)
Harvard Square P.O. Box 38-0331
Cambridge, MA 02238
Telephone (617) 524-0415

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 120108
Boston, MA 02112
Telephone (617) 338-2350
Hotline (617) 338-2355
Fax (617) 338-2354

Boston Asian: Youth Essential Service (YES)
199 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 482-4243
Fax (617) 482-3620

Boston HUD Tenants Alliance
353 Columbus Avenue
Boston, MA 02116
Telephone (617) 267-2949

Brookline Tenants Union
P.O. Box 95
Brookline, MA 02146
Telephone (617) 498-9811

Cambodian American Association of Western Massachusetts
171 A2 Brittany Manor Drive
Amherst, MA 01002
Telephone (413) 253-0696
Fax (413) 256-1648

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Cambodian American League of Lowell
79 High Street
Lowell, MA 01852
Telephone (508) 454-3707
Fax (508) 441-1781

Cambodian Community of Greater Fall River (CCFR)
P.O. Box 5085/Flint Station
Fall River, MA 02723
Telephone (508) 676-8225

Cambodian Community of Massachusetts, Inc. (CCM)
375 Broadway Room 208
P.O. Box 6013
Chelsea, MA 02150
Telephone (617) 884-8004
Fax (617) 884-8409

Cambodian Girls Club
c/o East Boston Ecumenical Community Council
28 Paris Street
East Boston, MA 02128
Telephone (617) 567-2750

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc.
125 Perry Street
Lowell, MA 01852
Telephone (508) 454-4286

Cambridge Tenants Union
1151 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone (617) 576-1006

Cambridge Eviction Free Zone
11 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Telephone (617) 868-2900

Chinese Progressive Association
33 Harrison Avenue, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 357-4499
Fax (617) 357-9611

City Life
335 Lamartine Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Telephone (617) 357-4499

Coalition for a Better Acre
450 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01854
Telephone (508) 452-7523
Fax (508) 452-4923
leew igc.apc.org

Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY)
Institute for Asian American Studies
UMass Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
Telephone (617) 287-5658

East Boston Ecumenical Community Council
28 Paris Street
East Boston, MA 02128
Telephone (617) 567-2750
Fax (617) 569-5946

Emerge
2380 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02141
Telephone (617) 547-9879
Voice Mail (617) 422-1548

Hampshire Community Action Commission, Inc. (HCAC)
56 Vernon Street
Northampton, MA 01060
Telephone (413) 584-4577

Harbor Me, Inc.
P.O. Box 505634
Chelsea, MA 02150
Hotline (617) 889-2111

Telephone (617) 884-8974
Fax (617) 884-9171

Hmong Lao Foundation
345 Main Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
Telephone (508) 342-1892

Immigrant Assistance Center
58 Crapo Street
New Bedford, MA 02741
Telephone (508) 996-8113

Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
22 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148
Telephone (617) 322-9777

Immigrant Worker Resource Center (IWRC)
25 West Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 542-3342

Impact Quincy
15 Cottage Avenue
Quincy, MA 02169
Telephone (617) 472-6027 x166

Indian American Forum for Political Education
P.O. Box 622
Dedham, MA 02026
Telephone (617) 327-6337
Fax (617) 325-2007

Institute for Asian American Studies UMass Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard, 10-7 Healey Library
Boston, MA 02125-3393
Telephone (617) 287-5650
Fax (617) 287-5656
asian_am@umbsky.cc.umb.edu

International Institute of Boston
287 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Telephone (617) 536-1081
Fax (617) 536-1573

Korean American Citizens League of New England (KACL)
11 Bartkus Farm
Concord, MA 01742
Telephone (508) 369-0351
Fax (508) 371-1217
choi@ll.mit.edu

Korean American Society of New England, Inc.
240 Heath Street, Penthouse #16
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Telephone (617) 731-1102

Korean Americans for Progressive Action (KAPA)
81 Greenough Street
Brookline, MA 02146
Telephone (617) 277-3378

Korean Institute Inc./Center for Language and Culture
1775 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone (617) 876-3540
Fax (617) 661-6424

Lao Association of Massachusetts
23 Upham Street
Malden, MA 02148
Telephone (617) 322-9754

Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc. (LEO)
113 Munroe Street
Lynn, MA 01901
Telephone (617) 581-7220

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Malden Asian Pacific American Coalition (MAPAC)
c/o 94 Maple Street
Malden, MA 02148
Telephone (617) 748-8890
Fax (617) 322-0316

Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project (MAAPP)
P.O. Box 120-555
Boston, MA 02112-0555
Telephone (617) 499-9484
treee@mit.edu

Massachusetts Asian American Commission
c/o Central Artery/Tunnel Project
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 951-6490

Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association (MAAEA)
P.O Box 380729
Cambridge, MA 02238
Telephone (617) 845-9481

Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC)
99 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 426-0303

Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups
14 Beacon St., Suite 507
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 248-0922
Fax (617) 248-0902

Massachusetts English Plus Coalition
c/o American Jewish Congress
126 High Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 457-8888
Fax (617) 988-6246

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Inc. (MIRA)
105 Chauncy Street, Suite 402
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 350-5480
Fax (617) 350-5499

Massachusetts Tenants Organization (MTO)
14 Beacon St., Rm. 809
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone (617) 367-6628
Hotline (617) 367-6260

Massachusetts Younger Asian American Commission (MYAAC)
38 County Road
Chelsea, MA 02150
Telephone (617) 722-1650
lwing_sen@state.ma.us

Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants
784 Washington St. #504
Dorchester, MA 02124
Telephone (617) 825-9750

Metropolitan Indochinese Children and Adolescent Services (MICAS)
MICAS Vietnamese Youth and Family Center
254 Adams Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
Telephone/Fax (617) 825-1861

Metropolitan Indochinese Children and Adolescent Services (MICAS)
MICAS Cambodian Youth and Family Center
191 North Common Street, 3rd Floor
Lynn, MA 01905
Telephone/Fax (617) 595-2300

National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP)
Boston Chapter
P.O. Box 381435
Cambridge, MA 02238-1435

Telephone (617) 937-7072

National Association of Korean Americans (NAKA)
New England Chapter
12 Sumner Road
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone (617) 491-6227
Fax (617) 723-3029
minlee@fas.harvard.edu

National Coalition of Advocates for Students (NCAS)
100 Boylston Street, Suite 737
Boston, MA 02116
Telephone (617) 357-8507
CHIME
Hotline (800) 441-7192
ncasmfe@aol.com

National Federation of Indians Association
17 Pathwoods Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803
Telephone (617) 935-1118

Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)
New England Chapter
P.O. Box 67177
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167
Telephone (617) 469-0992
Fax (617) 469-0992

PRABASI of New England
58 Bittersweet Lane
Weston, MA 02193
Telephone (617) 647-1451

Queer Asian Pacific Alliance
P.O. Box 543 Prudential Station
Boston, MA 02199
Telephone (617) 965-8188
Hotline (617) 499-9531

Quincy Asian American Association
66 Meadowbrook Road
Quincy, MA 02170
Telephone (617) 471-8698
Fax (617) 328-9538
tac@world.std.com

Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. (QCAP)
1509 Hancock Street, Suite 310
Quincy, MA 02169
Telephone (617) 479-8181

Quincy School Community Council, Inc.
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 635-5129
Fax (617) 635-5132
quincc@a1.mec.mass.edu

ROCA (Reach Out to Chelsea Adolescents)
146 Washington Avenue
Chelsea, MA 02150
Telephone (617) 884-5555 or
(617) 889-5210

ROCA Revere
103 Shirley Avenue
Revere, MA 02151
Telephone (617) 284-6281

South Asian Women for Action (SAWA)
c/o DasGupta
762 Columbia Road, #1
Dorchester, MA 02125
Telephone (617) 265-5404
Fax (617) 497-0316
(to Hardeep Mann)
sawa@way.net

South Cove Community Health Center (SCCHC)
145 South Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 521-6700
Fax (617) 521-6799

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MainClinic
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone (617) 482-7555
Fax (617) 482-2930

Satellite Offices
SCCHC/MICAS
254 Adams Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
Telephone (617) 825-1861

SCCHC
191 North Common Street
Lynn, MA 01905
Telephone (617) 595-2300

SCCHC
Quincy Center
275 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02170
Telephone (617) 745-0280

Southeast Asian Family Health & Social Service Center
26 Queen St.
Worcester, MA 01610
Telephone (508) 860-7700
Fax (518) 860-7990

Vietnamese American Initiative for Development, Inc. (Viet-AID)
1485 Dorchester Avenue, Suite 206
Dorchester, MA 02122
Telephone (617) 822-3717
Fax (617) 822-3718

Vietnamese American Civic Association (VACA)
1486 Dorchester Avenue
Boston, MA 02122
Telephone (617) 288-7344
Fax (617) 288-4860

Vietnamese American Civic Association (VACA) of Greater Springfield
316 Belmont Avenue
Springfield, MA 01108
Telephone (413) 733 -9373

Vietnamese Parents Advisory Council
4 Ashland Street
Boston, MA 02124

YMCA International Services
316 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Telephone (617) 536-7800 x 240